

N the ages of Faith the 9th of October was a great day in Paris, for on that day the Parisians celebrated their patron feast. Now, the Goddess of Reason usurps the patronage of this strange people. It is generally supposed that the St. Denis of France

is Dionysius, the Areopagite, the friend and convert of St. Paul, and as such, his story is full of interest.

Dionysius was an Athenian philosopher who, for his great wisdom in heavenly things, was called Theosophus, and, being a judge of the Areopagus, was called the Areopagite. He traveled into Egypt to study astronomy, and while there with his companion, the philosopher Appollophanes, at Heliopolis, they were greatly puzzled by a darkness which hung over the earth for three hours from mid-day. When he returned to Athens he found St. Paul there preaching The Unknown God. He sought him out, learned the story of Redemption, and recognized in the darkness of that day in Heliopolis the hour of our Savior's death and the dawning of the New Light. He was converted and baptized. St. Paul then ordained him priest, and he became the first Bishop of Athens.

In his letters he tells us of his visit to Jerusalem to see the Blessed Virgin, and of the wonderful and glorious radiance which surrounded her and of the grand company of angels who attended upon her. He was present at her death and burial and records the names of the Apostles present. Afterwards he returned to Athens and then decided to visit Pope Clement in Rome; perhaps he was called there by the successor of St. Peter. He attended St. Paul during his martyrdom. After this he was sent to preach the Gospel in France, having for his companions a priest named Rusticus, and a deacon, Eleutherius. St. Denis, to give him his French